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## **News Release**

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### **Second defendant sentenced in bank fraud case**

Last month, a Bloomington man received a 72-month sentence for his role in a bank fraud scheme. Today in federal court, the second defendant in the investigation was sentenced to 10 months in prison.

United States District Court Chief Judge James Rosenbaum also sentenced Stephanie Alane Prescott, 47, Bloomington, to three years supervised release, and mandatory restitution in excess of \$17,000. Prescott pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud on Jan. 14.

According to Prescott's plea agreement, she did knowingly and willfully conspire with Mark Julian Lee, 48, to execute and attempt to execute a scheme to obtain money from several financial institutions by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses. Lee was sentenced on April 21.

In furtherance of the conspiracy, Prescott stole mail, or received from others mail that she knew to be stolen, which contained checks. Prescott altered the checks to make them appear payable to a co-conspirator, who endorsed the altered checks, and cashed them in order to receive money. The conspiracy occurred from Aug. 22, 2005, to Sept. 30, 2006.

This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Otteson.